

1 THESSALONIANS

**STANDING FIRM & PRESSING ON,
UNITED TO JESUS.**

Am I Chosen?

1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

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This passage continues Paul's encouragement of the Thessalonian believers (and by application, believers today) by describing his certainty about the loving, gracious, and sovereign work God had done in their midst through the preaching, receiving, and living out of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Review of 1:1-3: Paul looked for evidences of God's grace in the lives of the Thessalonian believers. He praised God for what he saw and then he encouraged those believers by letting them know of his praise.

The doctrine of election: "A biblical word used to speak of God's choosing of individuals or people to bring about God's purposes." *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*

The doctrine of election is related to what we know about the condition of man apart from Christ (cf. Ephesians 2:1; Romans 5:9-10; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Luke 15: 1-4).

Paul affirmed his certainty that the Thessalonian believers were loved by God and were chosen by God. That certainty was "because" (1:5) of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; particularly...

1. The preaching of the gospel (1:5)

2. The receiving of the gospel (1:6, 9-10)

- Affliction
- Joy
- Repentance
- Anticipation

3. The living out / proclaiming of the gospel (1:7-8)

Questions to Consider

1. Did you take time this week to look for evidences of God's grace in the lives of fellow believers, and then praise God for those works of His grace?
2. Read Ephesians 1:3-6. What does this passage say about God the Father's role in our salvation, and when did He do it?
3. Read the verses listed above about the condition of man apart from Christ. What are some of the descriptions of unbelievers?
4. Summarize the gospel of Jesus Christ. What must a person do in order to be saved?
5. How did the gospel come to the people of Thessalonica (1:5)? What might be an application of this description for our own ministry of the gospel to unbelievers?
6. The Thessalonians received the gospel "in much affliction" (1:6). What does this indicate about modern prosperity preaching?
7. What are some 2018 forms of idolatry that keep people from "the living and true God"?
8. Why was it important for the early church to have people like the Apostle Paul as an example?
9. How is the gospel being lived out and proclaimed in your daily life?